

**Minutes**  
**Floors Working Group**  
Wednesday 18 January 2023  
via WebEx

**Presiding working group leader:** Tim Hansen; Oasis Stage Werks

**Recording secretaries:** Richard Nix & Karl Ruling; ESTA

**Members attending:**

Keith Sklar; Actors' Equity Association; P; G  
Nathan Wilkinson; Actors' Equity Association; A; G  
Mike Skinner; Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers; P; U  
Bruce Darden; InterAmerica Stage, Inc.; P; MP  
Tim Hansen; Oasis Stage Werks; P; MP  
Robert Haycock; Robert Haycock; O; U  
Stephen Spendiff; Rosco Laboratories; P; MP  
Nathaniel Conlin; Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC; A; CP  
Shannon Nickerson; Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC; P; CP  
Steven Serafin; The Hartford Group; P; G  
Jerry Gorrell; Theatre Safety Programs; P; U  
Karl G. Ruling; Unit 12 Productions; I; DE  
William Gillett; Walt Disney Company; P; U

**1 Opening remarks**

Tim Hansen called the meeting to order at 16:02.

**2 ESTA declarations**

**2.1 Reading of the anti-trust statement**

Tim Hansen read the following statement aloud to the assembly:

ESTA and its members take seriously their obligation to comply with all applicable antitrust laws. Therefore, during this meeting and during all ESTA events, all discussions will be limited to those subjects that are permitted by the antitrust laws. All members should refrain from any discussion or mention of competitively sensitive subjects such as the current or future prices charged for any member product or services, current or future marketing plans or strategies, and current or future costs, including employee salaries. There also must be no agreement on the suppliers or customers that members will do business with or the markets in which members will conduct business.

Violations of the antitrust laws can have serious consequences. If you have any questions or concerns about anything that is discussed at a ESTA meeting, please bring your concern to ESTA management. An easy to read pamphlet describing the antitrust laws is available from the ESTA staff.

Karl Ruling displayed a copy of the pamphlet. No restraint of trade issues were raised.

## **2.2 Reading of the call for patents**

Tim Hansen read the following statement aloud to the assembly:

ESTA intends not to publish any standard that contains protected intellectual property, unless that information can be licensed by anyone for a reasonable fee. ESTA uses a process of open patent and copyright disclosures to implement its intent. ESTA does not conduct patent or copyright searches and does not warrant that its standards contain no protected intellectual property.

In keeping with the open disclosures policy, I ask if anyone present wishes to notify this working group of the existence of a patent, patent application, copyright, or other protected intellectual property that might protect material in a standard being developed by this working group. You need not be the holder of the patent or copyright to notify this working group of its existence.

Bruce Darden reported that the patent cited in E1.76 public review comments does not have any claims that would bear on the draft standard. In any case, the intellectual property is often licensed to other manufacturers.

Karl Ruling asked Bruce Darden to have his boss, Mark Black, the patent holder, write ESTA a letter saying that the intellectual property can be licensed by anyone on a non-discriminatory basis for a reasonable fee. That would make it clear that this standard would not unreasonably benefit any private company or individual.

## **3 Attendance and Membership**

### **3.1 Requirements for membership**

Tim Hansen read the following statement aloud to the assembly:

Membership is open to all parties who are affected by the work of the group; membership in ESTA is not a requirement, but there is a \$100/person/year participation fee to help fund running the Technical Standards Program. Voting members are required to attend meetings. Any principal member and alternate that both miss three consecutive meetings or that miss three consecutive letter ballots will have their membership status changed to observer; either class of inaction shall result in a loss of voting status. This action will be taken at the beginning of the first meeting after such inaction and will be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

### **3.2 Introduction of attendees**

### **3.3 Determination of a quorum**

*The voting body as of 16 December is 11. A quorum is four. A supermajority vote would require at least six.*

There were ten voting members present, enough for a quorum and any vote.

### 3.4 Processing of new membership and status change requests

None as of 16 December 2022.

### 3.5 Changes to observer status due to lack of participation

Stephen Spendiff representing Rosco Laboratories has missed the last two meetings and will become an observer member if this meeting is also missed.

Stephen Spendiff was present. There was no status change.

### 3.6 Draft consensus body:

Delegate	Representing	Voting status	Int. cat.
Keith Sklar	Actors' Equity Association	P	G
M. Nathan Wilkinson	Actors' Equity Association	A	G
Michael Skinner	AMPTP	P	U
Steve Gough	Harlequin Corporation	P	MP
Kasper Nyboe	Harlequin Corporation	A	MP
Bruce Darden	InterAmerica Stage, Inc.	P	MP
Tim Hansen	Oasis Stage Werks	P	MP
Stephen Spendiff	Rosco Laboratories	P	MP
Shannon Nickerson	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	P	DR
Nathaniel Conlin	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	DR
Steven Serafin	The Hartford Group	P	G
Jerry Gorrell	Theatre Safety Programs	P	U
Karl G. Ruling	Unit 12 Productions	I	DE
William Gillett	Walt Disney Company	P	U
	<b>Total votes possible:</b>	<b>11</b>	
<b>Votes by interest category</b>	Custom market producer (CP):	0	
	Designer (DE):	1	
	Dealer or rental company (DR):	1	
	General interest (G):	2	
	Mass-market producer (MP):	4	
	User (U):	3	

#### **4 Approval of the minutes from the last meeting**

See *FLmin09-2022\_DRAFT.pdf*

William Gillett moved to approve the minutes as drafted. The motion was seconded and carried without objection or abstention.

#### **5 Approval of agenda**

Bruce Darden moved to approve the agenda as written. The motions was seconded and carried without objection or abstention.

#### **6 Old business**

##### **6.1 ANSI E1.26 - 2006 (R2022), shock absorption of floors** (action due in 2027)

Tim Hansen noted a discussion on an Internet forum asking if there were standards for floor shock absorption. Bill Sapsis had replied to the thread, saying that ESTA had developed these standards. There was no other action or news.

##### **6.2 ANSI E1.34 - 2009 (R2019) floor slipperiness** (action due in 2024)

No action or news at this time.

##### **6.3 ANSI E1.46 - 2018, Recommended Practice for the Prevention Of Falls from Theatrical Stages and Raised Performance Platforms** (action due 13 July 2023)

*Action is needed now or in April.*

There was discussion. Jerry Gorrell reported that none of the fall cases he's worked on involved cases where this standard had been used before th fall.

Tim Hansen asked working group members to review the standard to see if there is anything that needed to be changed so we should revise it or if we can simply reaffirm it. Come prepared to act at the April working group meeting.

##### **6.4 ANSI E1.57 – 2016 (R2021), Recommendations to prevent performer and technician falls on or off movable parade floats, movable stages, and similar moving platforms**

(reaffirmation of 2016 edition. Action needed in 2026.)

No news or action now.

##### **6.5 ANSI E1.60 - 2018, Guidelines for the use of raked stages in live performance environments** (reaffirmation or revision work to start by 20 September 2023)

Tim Hansen asked working group members to review the standard to see if there is anything that needed to be changed so we should revise it or if we can simply reaffirm it. Keith Sklar said that it is working for Actors' Equity. Steve Serafin said that the insurance agents under his supervision also are not having any problem with the standard; it works for them.

##### **6.6 ANSI E1.62 - 2021, Minimum specifications for mass-produced portable platforms, ramps, stairs, and choral risers for live performance events** (action needed in 2026)

No news or action now.

## **6.7 BSR E1.76, Wire rope tension grids**

See *BSR E1-76\_PR2 CmmntSmmry.pdf*.

How to accomplish the task of resolving the public review comments was discussed. Tim Hansen will work with Bruce Darden to write a draft public review comment resolution.

Darden said there are many comments dealing with editorial style and layout. There also are many comments dealing with how to take measurements to meet the requirements of the draft standard—measurement procedures that even the engineers can't agree upon.

Bruce Darden said that the patent cited in E1.76 public review comments does not have any claims that would bear on the draft standard. In any case, the intellectual property is often licensed to other manufacturers. He'll ask Mark Black, the patent holder, to write ESTA a letter saying that the intellectual property can be licensed by anyone on a non-discriminatory basis for a reasonable fee, and that should resolve any questions.

## **7 New business**

None.

## **8 Other business & announcements**

### **8.1 Above & Beyond Award**

Attendees are reminded that the nomination form is at [https://tsp.esta.org/tsp/news/award\\_nomination.html](https://tsp.esta.org/tsp/news/award_nomination.html). Past recipients are listed at [https://tsp.esta.org/tsp/news/award\\_recipients.html](https://tsp.esta.org/tsp/news/award_recipients.html).

### **8.2 Other other business & announcements**

## **9 Schedule for future meetings**

Tim Hansen said that the full meeting schedule is posted at <http://www.esta.org/ESTA/meetings.php>. The Spring meetings will be in April, scheduled around the NAMM show. They will be in person in Anaheim and on-line via WebEx. The Floors Working Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, from 7pm to 11pm PDT (10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. EDT).

## **10 Adjournment**

Tim Hansen declared the meeting adjourned at 16:39; all items on the agenda had been completed.

Floors Working Group Members as of 30 January 2023

Delegate	Representing	Voting status	Int. cat.
Robert Barbagallo	Solotech Inc.	O	DR
Patricia Basileo	Harlequin Corporation	O	MP
Justin Bennett	University of the Incarnate Word	O	U
Nathaniel Conlin	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	CP
Bob Dagger	Harlequin Corporation	O	MP
Bruce Darden	InterAmerica Stage, Inc.	P	MP
Mike Garl	Mike Garl Consulting LLC	exf	
William Gillett	Walt Disney Company	P	U
Jerry Gorrell	Theatre Safety Programs	P	U
Steve Gough	Harlequin Corporation	P	MP
Erin Grabe	ESTA	exf	G
Tim Hansen	Oasis Stage Werks	P	MP
Robert Haycock	Robert Haycock	O	U
Shannon Nickerson	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	P	CP
Richard J. Nix	ESTA	exf	G
Kasper Nyboe	Harlequin Corporation	A	MP
Karl G. Ruling	Unit 12 Productions	I	DE
Karl G. Ruling	ESTA	exf	G
Steven Serafin	The Hartford Group	P	G
Mike Skinner	Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers	P	U
Keith Sklar	Actors' Equity Association	P	G
Stephen Spendiff	Rosco Laboratories	P	MP
Nathan Wilkinson	Actors' Equity Association	A	G
Jeong Sik Yoo	Ghost LX	O	DE

## Floors Working Group Members as of 30 January 2023

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### **Key to codes**

CP = Custom market producer

DE = Designer

DR = Dealer/Rental company

G = General interest

MP = Mass marker producer

U = User

P = Principal voting member

A = Alternate voting member

I = Individual voting member

O = Observer non-voting member

exf = ex officio, non-voting staff